

from the mailing date of the Notice, i.e., by March 2, 2002, a Saturday therefore filing the reply on Monday March 4, 2002 should be considered timely.

Enclosed herewith is the executed Declaration for Patent Application And Power of Attorney, an executed assignment and recordation sheet, substitute drawings, the sequence listing in both paper and computer readable forms and omitted Figures 5, 6 and 11.

For the reasons that follow, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) accept that the omitted items (Figures 5, 6 and 11) were filed in the PTO as of the earliest filing dates of this application, namely: July 13, 2001, the filing date USSN 09/905,129 (of which the present application is a continuation-in-part), and March 8, 2001, the filing date of USSN 09/802,318 (of which USSN 09/905,129 is a continuation-in-part, and December 4, 2000, the filing date of USSN 09/729,485 (of which USSN 09/802,318 is a continuation-in-part) and to which the present application has properly claimed priority).

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application without prejudice, without admission and without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 69, line 11, please rewrite the paragraph thereat as follows:

The following primers were used for exogenic OCP detection:

Forward: 5' GCACTGAACTGCTCTGTGGAT 3' (SEQ ID NO: 26); and

Reverse: 5' CCACAGAAGTAAGGTTCTTCAC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 27).

Page 74, line 15, please rewrite the paragraph thereat as follows:

At the boundary of this conserved region there is a completely conserved stretch of basic amino acids: KCKKDR (SEQ ID NO: 28) (aa 242-247 and 240-245, in rat and human proteins, respectively). Stretches of basic amino acids frequently serve as protease cleavage sites. The fact that such a stretch is found on the boundary of more or less conserved sequences and the fact that it occurs within the C-terminal LRR, a generally conserved domain, suggests an underlying biological significance.

Immediately after page 78 and before the first page of claims (page 79), please insert the enclosed pages identified as --Sequence Listing--.